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NOTE

An Overlooked Generic Name in Chloropidae (Diptera)

While scanning the volume "Indian Insect Life" (1909) by H. Maxwell-Lefroy, I chanced upon the generic name *Merochlorops* for a chloropid fly. This generic name has never been noticed by specialists in the family, nor in nomenclators.

Figure 4 on colored Plate LXVI, between pp. 616 and 617, shows the egg, larva, posterior spiracles, puparium, and the adult fly with wings spread so that the venation shows clearly. There is no description, but before 1931 the publication of a name "in connection with an illustration" is an "indication" sufficient to make the name available ("International Code of Zoological Nomenclature," Art. 16a.vii). The appearance of the imago, thorax stocky and predominantly shining black with yellow scutellum and a yellow area on each side (probably notopleuron plus mesopleuron), long veins slightly concave anteriorly, discal cell strongly widened distad to the small (r-m) crossvein and the longer outer crossvein slightly oblique, and the short and broad abdomen, readily identify the species as belonging to the genus long known as *Formosina* Becker (1911), of which *Merochlorops* is the senior synonym (**N. syn.**).

No species name is given and the species cannot be identified positively from the figure, although it appears to be *Formosina ceylanica* Duda. I hereby designate *F. ceylanica* as the type species of *Merochlorops*. If the species figured is specific to or common in the recorded niche, it might some day be confirmed by rearing. The author comments (pp. 627-628) that "The larva lives in the watery tissue of the swathing leaves round the stem of plantain-trees and under sissoo bark." The only locality mentioned is "Pusa," i.e., Darbhanga, in Bihar State, in connection with his description of a native 'doctor's' use of the larvae.

The 18 specific names listed by Sabrosky (1977, in Delfinado and Hardy, "A Catalog of the Diptera of the Oriental Region," vol. III, pp. 309-310) become new combinations with *Merochlorops*, 10 with the same spelling and 8 changed to masculine endings (*atratus*, *ceylanicus*, *cinctus*, *impavidus*, *nigrolimbatus*, *ochraceus*, *perplexus*, and *tumidus*).

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